

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

NSC-05 EB-07 COME-00 CU-02 OIC-02 NEA-10 AF-10

DLOS-09 OES-07 DODE-00 /111 W

-----011227Z 021221 /50

R 011153Z JUN 77

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3940

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NATO 04496

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ALLIES: THE NEXT SIX MONTHS.

REF: (A) USNATO 164 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 14812 (NOTAL),
(C) STATE 31132 (NOTAL), (D) USNATO 783 (NOTAL), (E)
STATE 124528

SUMMARY: NAC CONSULTATIONS THIS SPRING WERE SUCCESSFUL IN GIVING THE ALLIES A SENSE OF CONTACT WITH THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AND IN CONVEYING WASHINGTON'S APPROACH TO THE CENTRAL ISSUES OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS. IN OUR VIEW, US EFFORTS IN COMING MONTHS SHOULD AIM TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM THAT HAS BEEN BUILT UP AND THE EXCELLENT RECORD ALREADY ACHIEVED. TO ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT'S PLANNING, WE OUTLINE BELOW POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR MAJOR NAC CONSULTATIONS DURING THE SUMMER AND AUTUMN. ACTION REQUESTED: SEE PARA 5. END SUMMARY.

1. THE RECORD OF NATO CONSULTATIONS THIS SPRING, INCLUDING THE LONDON SUMMIT AND THE DPC MINISTERIAL, HAS BEEN IMPRESSIVE:

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--JANUARY 24 - VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE

--MARCH 11 - ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON ON THE MIDDLE EAST;

--MARCH 17 - DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE ON

EASTERN EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENTS;

--MARCH 21 - PM DIRECTOR GELB ON SALT;

--MARCH 26 - THE SECRETARY EN ROUTE TO MOSCOW;

--APRIL 4 - ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN AND AMBASSADOR
EARLE ON THE SECRETARY'S TALKS IN MOSCOW;

--APRIL 20 - NAC SESSION ON CSCE;

--MAY 23 - ACDA DIRECTOR WARNKE ON SALT.

2. LOOKING AHEAD, ADDITIONAL CONSULTATIONS ARE LIKELY TO
GROW OUT OF SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES.

--ON CSCE, ALLIED REPS HAVE NOTED THE POSSIBILITY OF HEADS
OF ALLIED DELEGATIONS TO BELGRADE CONSULTING AT NATO
BETWEEN THE PREPARATORY AND MAIN MEETINGS, I.E., PERHAPS
IN SEPTEMBER.

--EAST-WEST STUDY. AS WE CARRY THROUGH THE PRESIDENT'S
PROPOSAL ENDORSED AT THE SUMMIT, WE HOPE TO PROMOTE
NAC CONSULTATIONS WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY-LEVEL OFFICIALS
FROM CAPITALS AS SUGGESTED IN OUR LATEST GUIDANCE (REF
E).

--MIDDLE EAST. FOLLOWING SECRETARY VANCE'S NEXT TRIP TO
THE MIDDLE EAST, THE ALLIES WOULD NO DOUBT WELCOME A
VISIT BY A SENIOR US OFFICIAL TO DEBRIEF AND CONSULT ON
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MIDDLE EASTERN DEVELOPMENTS.

--SALT. WE ANTICIPATE A CONTINUED HIGH LEVEL OF
ALLIED INTEREST IN CONSULTATIONS ON SALT THROUGHOUT THE
YEAR, PARTICULARLY IF THERE IS PROGRESS IN THE TALKS.

3. THE COUNCIL IS THUS LIKELY TO HAVE A FAIRLY FULL
SCHEDULE OF CONSULTATIONS ON MAJOR TOPICS IN COMING
MONTHS. ADDITIONALLY, AS WE ENTER THE FALL SEASON, THE
FOLLOWING ARE OTHER POSSIBLE TOPICS:

--AFRICA, WHICH HAS NOT BEEN EXAMINED IN DEPTH BY THE
COUNCIL SINCE THE MARCH 1976 CONSULTATION WITH ASSISTANT
SECRETARY SCHAUFEL (ALTHOUGH THE SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED
AT THE DECEMBER 1976 MINISTERIAL MEETING). THE ADVISA-
BILITY OF A COUNCIL SESSION WITH OFFICIALS FROM CAPITALS
WILL, OF COURSE, DEPEND ON DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA
AND THE STATUS OF ALLIED EFFORTS IN THIS AREA. ALSO, WE
WILL NEED TO CONSIDER FRENCH ATTITUDES TOWARD INVOLVING

HIGH OFFICIALS IN CONSULTATIONS IN NATO ON AFRICA.
WHILE THE FRENCH HAVE NOT OBJECTED TO EXCHANGES
OF INFORMATION, ESPECIALLY IN THE PERMREP LUNCHES, THEY
HAVE SHOWN NO APPETITE FOR FORMAL NAC CONSULTATIONS,
BEYOND THE PRO FORMA EXCHANGE ON THE AFRICAN EXPERTS
REPORT. MOREOVER, THEY RESISTED RECENTLY SHARING VIEWS
WITH OTHER ALLIES ON NAMIBIA. AT THIS STAGE WE MERELY
FLAG THE SUBJECT AS A POSSIBILITY.

--LAW OF THE SEA. ALLIES FOUND USEFUL NAC CONSULTATIONS
WITH EXPERTS ON SECURITY ASPECTS OF LOS IN 1974, 1975

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AND 1976. WHEN THE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER SUCH
CONSULTATION WAS RAISED THIS SPRING, SOME ALLIED REPS FELT
THAT DEVELOPMENTS DID NOT WARRANT EARLY CONSULTATIONS AND
SUGGESTED LOOKING AT THIS POSSIBILITY AGAIN DURING THE
FALL. WE DEFER TO US EXPERTS ON WHETHER SUCH CONSULTATIONS
MIGHT BE USEFUL AFTER THE SUMMER LOS CONFERENCE IN NEW
YORK.

--ARMS CONTROL. IN OUR CABLE ON CONSULTATIONS AT THE
BEGINNING OF THE YEAR (REF A), WE SUGGESTED IT MIGHT BE
USEFUL FOR THE COUNCIL TO REVIEW WITH OFFICIALS FROM
CAPITALS THE OVERALL DYNAMICS OF ARMS CONTROL EFFORTS IN
THE CONTEXT OF OUR BROADER POLICIES. THE DEPARTMENT COM-
MENTED FAVORABLY ON THIS POSSIBILITY (REF B) BUT
BELIEVED SUCH CONSULTATIONS WERE NOT PROPITIOUS
"AT THIS TIME".

4. ADDITIONALLY, WE RECALL OUR EARLIER SUGGESTIONS (REF D) THAT WASHINGTON PROVIDE US, WHEN POSSIBLE, WITH TIMELY STATEMENTS ON KEY US POLICY INITIATIVES THAT WE CAN SHARE WITH THE ALLIES AT REGULAR NAC MEETINGS OR DURING WEEKLY PERMREPS LUNCHEON.

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5. ACTION REQUESTED: WE DO NOT NEED EARLY GUIDANCE ON POSSIBLE SUBJECTS FOR NAC CONSULTATIONS THIS FALL, AN ISSUE ON WHICH ALLIED REPS ARE LIKELY TO BEGIN TO FOCUS ONLY AFTER THE AUGUST HOLIDAYS. HOWEVER, IF THERE ARE TOPICS FOR NAC CONSULTATIONS THAT THE DEPARTMENT WANTS US TO PROMOTE, WE COULD BEGIN TO DO SO IN CONTACTS WITH INTERESTED ALLIES OVER THE NEXT TWO MONTHS, AS WE DEVELOP FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES TO THE SUMMIT. BENNETT

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